

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER:MRC

APPROVED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

NEA:LBLAINGEN

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210797

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF, PK, IR

SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH'S VISIT

1. SUMMARY: AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH VISITED U.S. OCTOBER 19-23, ARRIVING ON SHORT NOTICE TO DELIVER MESSAGE ON ME TO PRESIDENT FROM PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD. OWING TO EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULE, PRESIDENT UNABLE TO RECEIVE ABDULLAH, WHO CHOSE NOT TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO DEPARTMENT. CONTENTS OVERTAKEN BY FASTBREAKING DEVELOPMENTS DURING WEEKEND IN ANY EVENT. ABDULLAH EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION IN BEING UNABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT, BUT FELT THAT THERE MIGHT BE ADVERSE REACTION IN KABUL. DEPSEC RUSH RECEIVED ABDULLAH OCTOBER 23 FOR DISCUSSION OF USG-
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AFGHAN RELATIONS AND AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS

NEIGHBORS, IN WHICH ABDULLAH REPEATED GOA CONCERNS RECENTLY VOICED IN KABUL ABOUT PAKISTANI "PROVOCATIONS". HE ALSO EXPRESSED AFGHAN CONCERN ABOUT BUILDUP OF IRANIAN MILITARY STRENGTH AND IRANIAN COOPERATION WITH BHUTTO IN REPRESSING BALUCHI TRIBES. ABDULLAH'S MESSAGE DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING DAY BY AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR. END SUMMARY.

2. ABDULLAH ARRIVED NEW YORK EVENING OCTOBER 19, HAVING INFORMED EMBASSY KABUL AND AFGHAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON PREVIOUS DAY OF VISIT. PURPOSE WAS TO CONVEY PERSONAL MESSAGE ON ME CRISIS FROM PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD TO

PRESIDENT NIXON. DEPARTMENT ARRANGED APPOINTMENT WITH THEN ACTING SECRETARY RUSH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, TO RECEIVE MESSAGE AND DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL USG-AFGHAN INTEREST. ABDULLAH DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO AWAIT WORD OF APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK. ON OCTOBER 22 HE ARRIVED WASHINGTON AND ATTENDED DINNER IN HIS HONOR BY AFGHAN AMB MALIKYAR. AMERICANS PRESENT INCLUDED AMBASSADORS BYROADE AND ELIOT, ACTING DEP ASST SECY LAINGEN, NAAS, CONSTABLE AND SCHIFFERDECKER. CONVERSATION CORDIAL BUT MARKED BY ABDULLAH'S CONTINUED INSISTENCE ON RECENT GOA LINE THAT AFGHANISTAN MAINTAINS STRONG INTEREST IN FATE OF PUSHTUN AND BALUCHI "BROTHERS" ACROSS DURAND LINE. ALSO REPEATED FULMINATIONS AGAINST PAKISTAN FOR INTERFERENCE IN AFGHAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND FOR "PROVOCATIONS" IN TRIBAL AREAS ADJOINING AFGHANISTAN.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH RECEIVED ABDULLAH ACCOMPANIED BY AMB. MALIKYAR, FOR 45 MINUTES OCTOBER 23. DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE WAS EXTREMELY CROWDED AND THAT APPOINTMENT UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE MADE. HE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT WAS RECEIVING MANY MESSAGE ON ME CRISIS BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEE MANY FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM ALLIED AND OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS. ABDULLAH REPLIED THAT HE, TOO, HAD LEFT URGENT BUSINESS BEHIND IN KABUL, AND HAD POSTPONED INDIAN FONMIN SWARAN SINGH'S VISIT TO KABUL IN ORDER COME TO U.S. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE NOT ONLY WISHED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVEY MESSAGE ON ME BUT ALSO WANTED TO CONVEY PERSONAL RESPECTS OF PRESIDENT DAOUD TO PRESIDENT NIXON. HE ADDED THAT, SPEAKING FRANKLY, HE BELIEVED REFUSAL OF APPOINTMENT WOULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT IN KABUL. DEPUTY SECRETARY REPEATED PREVIOUS STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S OVERCROWDED SCHEDULE, ADDING THAT HE KNEW OF PRESIDENT'S EXTREMELY HIGH REGARD FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PRESIDENT DAOUD PERSONALLY. HE STATED DEPARTMENT'S READINESS TO RECEIVE MESSAGE AND

DELIVER TO PRESIDENT. ABDULLAH DECLINED, SAYING IT WAS PERSONAL MESSAGE. (AMB. MALIKYAR SUBSEQUENTLY DELIVERED COPY OF MESSAGE TO DEPT. TEXT FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL.)

4. AT THIS POINT DULLAH AND MALIKYAR DISCUSSED (IN FARSI) DECISION FOR ABDULLAH TO LEAVE THAT EVENING, RATHER THAN WAITING ANOTHER DAY FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT. CONSTABLE SUGGESTED THAT AMB. MALIKYAR DELIVER MESSAGE LATER AND THAT OTHER TOPICS MIGHT USEFULLY BE RAISED IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY.

5. ABDULLAH THEN TURNED TO U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS BRIEFLY, STRESSING GOA'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE WARM AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND AFGHAN NEED FOR

CONTINUED U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

6. CONCERNING AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS, ABDULLAH REVIEWED FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GOA'S VIEWS, OUTLINING HISTORICAL BASIS OF PUSHTUNISTAN PROBLEM. SINCE ADVENT OF REPUBLICAN REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID, PAKISTAN HAS ENGAGED IN MANY PROVOCATIONS, CITING ALLEGED GOP INVOLVEMENT IN COUNTER-COUP PLOT AND CALLING IT A "LUNATIC" ACTION. HE ALSO CITED RECENT PAK ROAD-BUILDING PROJECT BY 1,500 ARMED PAKISTANI MILITIA IN MOHMAND TRIBAL T
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